(b) Small Farmers Agri-Business Consortium aims at increasing value addition at the hands of small farmers. Such ventures are assisted by way of equity support to the units set up by farmers' cooperatives, private and Joint Venture enterprises in all the States, including Jammu & Kashmir.

Horticulture development in Jammu and Kashmir

332. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would be interested in the development of horticulture in Jammu and Kashmir State; and

(b) if so, whether Government would ensure production of apple juice in Kashmir on the pattern of Leh Berry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Government of India is assisting the state of Jammu & Kashmir in Development of Horticulture through its various schemes including implementation of a Centrally sponsored Scheme "Macro Management in Agriculture Supplementation/Complementation of State efforts through work plans". Under this scheme funds are allocated to state. The State can pursue the programme of Horticulture development under this scheme as per its needs. Besides, National Horticulture Board under its programme "Development of Commercial Horticulture through production and post-harvest management" provides assistance in the form of back ended capital subsidy @ 20% of total project cost with a maximum limit of Rs. 25.00 lakhs. Agricultural Produce Export Development Authority (APEDA), Ministry of Commerce, is also implementing various programmes for Horticulture industry which are availed by Jammu & Kashmir also.

In order to provide focused attention to the Development of Horticulture in the State, a Technology Mission on Horticulture is in the process of implementation. The mission includes project based back-ended capital subsidy tor setting industry including for production of apple juice.